

Center's title irks citizens

Naming done 'between salad dishes'

By Debbie Howlett
Of the Emerald

While people toured and enjoyed the Hult Center for the Performing Arts at Sunday's open-house, a group of Eugeneans quietly circulated petitions to have the Eugene City Council reconsider the name of the center.

An ad hoc group has formed, led by Rachele Raia, to protest the naming of the center after Nils and Jewell Hult, who donated \$3 million to the Eugene Arts Foundation. The group is angry and wants to tell the council that other city residents are angry about the performing arts center's name.

Nearly 800 city residents were angry enough to sign the petition the group drew up only yesterday. The open house was

the first chance they had to gain any signatures.

"We're finding people are generally supportive," says Pat Albright, a Springfield High School teacher and one of the people circulating petitions. While he spoke, a man approached him to ask if he could help circulate petitions.

"People, I feel, think the decision was taken out of hands of the people," Albright says. "Some people are upset; this is the only way we get to know how people feel."

Part of the anger over the naming of the center stems from what Albright calls a "decision made in between the salad dishes."

Raia says the decision was made at a recognition dinner with only 500 ticket-holders attending. Raia says she feels the

city and the arts foundation should have consulted with city residents before taking "Eugene" out of the center's name.

Raia also says a "memorial opportunities" plan, announced as early as two years ago, specified a \$3 million donation meant the center would bear the giver's name as a memorial.

Raia says she believes the Hults should be honored, but the city residents should not be written out.

When asked why he'd signed the petition, Charles Bierman, an international marketing consultant in Eugene, said the center was a "community effort."

"All of the donations helped build this building; that \$3 million is a small percentage."

Court says suspension invalid

By Debbie Howlett
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The State Court of Appeals decided Thursday that the University suspended former student Gilbert Patton without providing a proper hearing.

The court also told University officials that (should they choose not to appeal the second decision) Patton must either be allowed to re-enroll or be given another hearing.

According to Patton's attorney, Charles Spinner, Patton was placed on "suspended mandatory medical leave, with conditions" in February, 1981. One of the conditions the University set forth at the informal hearing was that Patton must see and keep regular appointments with a psychiatrist.

In April the University suspended Patton from school for not meeting the conditions of his leave, something Spinner calls "violating probation."

The case made its way to the appellate court because of protests from Spinner, who also directs legal services, that the initial "informal hearing" and the subsequent hearing were not "contested cases."

A contested case allows an individual legal rights, duties and privileges and the right to appear and be heard. Spinner says Patton was not allowed the rights and, prior to the second hearing, was only given two days notice to appear.

Spinner says the appeal was made because Patton hadn't been allowed certain "procedural safeguards," and that in "suspending" Patton's medical leave, the University could invoke "arbitrary" conditions.

"(The University) didn't even specify a time length for the conditions," Spinner says.

Spinner also says the University did not have the right to "suspend" a medical leave, that administrative rules specifically

say the student either must be removed from school or be allowed to stay.

In hearing the case, Spinner said the University "followed their own rules but their rules are wrong."

At the time of his dismissal, Patton was ordered to withdraw from classes and stay away from the University campus.

Peter Swan, a law professor and the University's legal counsel at the hearings, says the University hasn't decided whether to appeal but "if a principle is at stake," they will appeal.

Swan declined to describe the conditions of Patton's dismissal. He says "they were offered a contested case hearing but didn't accept the offer."

"These (hearings) are time consuming, and you can bet we wouldn't have done it for practice," Swan says.

Patton, who Spinner says is "still around," could not be reached for comment.

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